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Collective comment:

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Make or break time?

**2010; is this year going to be Burma's** last chance to save what could be, even today, a recoverable, economically viable nation from the brink of total disaster?

**Burma** is fast becoming a byword for a; **'failed State'**. However, the American; *think tank*, for *what its worth*, have already placed Burma on the list, but considers the country as **'sustainable'** because Burma does have a controlling government in place, albeit, a military dictatorship that lives and works within its own protective environment outside of the society it forces itself upon. The regime, similarly, allow locally set up militia's to roam freely, though answerable to the regime. The militias exercise their own will upon the people, even levying tax's to pay their wages. The use of regular troops and police are called upon only to intimidate when a show of authority is required, or when a military assault takes place against the people.

Whereas; other countries that are labelled as failed states, have not even the most basic social infrastructure, nor indeed a central government, instead, ill disciplined, autonomous armed groups roam at will. In Burma, any location that has no useful purpose, the people are left to fend for themselves with no service infrastructure to cater for their needs. Possibilities of work, education or medical facilities are non-existent, and the people are still subject to persecution by the militia. The infrastructure of Burma serves only the military, if a person is part of it, he/she are either, involuntary or voluntary slaves, if they are not part of the establishment, they are enforced slaves to it. Does this mean, that the American think tank, consider, that so long as the slaves are kept in order, using what ever methods, the state is considered; **'sustainable'**?

**WILL DEMOCRACY SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY ANY TIME SOON?**

**Any hope of recovery**, requires the restructuring of the existing infrastructure to incorporate and accommodate a civil society with all its services. Rebuilding Burma as a society of people instead of just a military establishment would take generations without the help of sympathetic supporters of democracy within that military establishment, so that, an efficient rapid transition can take place without threat of unrest, giving the people their reward of freedom sooner rather than later, and too allow all party debate as too how any new government will provide priority services to the people thus, preventing Burma from falling into yet a deeper quagmire preventing the country from ever becoming one nation or a nation of states and, to be at peace with its self?

**The people of Burma should be reaping** the benefits of **their** countries vast natural resources, with a government of **their** choosing and without duress, not living a continuation of the status quo, where it is only the leading members of the regime, that fill **their** pockets, together with **their** cronies, some of whom reside outside of Burma.

Even the rank and file, the very people, they depend on for their security, are treated more like slaves than loyal servants of the state, held in place by threats of imprisonment or death.

**The west**, specifically its media, and certain human rights groups, is over ploughing the political spin to the point of turning what is still arable land, into a political dust bowl, because words alone are not enough.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS; A CONCERN ONLY, WHEN COMPLYING WITH FOREIGN POLICY?**

**The present strategy** of mainly western governments, certain exiles and the media, are all too often engrossed in their own morals, power broking and money making enterprises to recognise the need for a change of direction. They conveniently forget, that the freedom they share today, came about only by the coalition and sacrifice of millions, who together, fought a common enemy and died shoulder to shoulder too achieve that freedom, but now, those babes wrapped in cotton wool, most of whom are completely ignorant and naïve of Burma's suffering, no fault of their own of course unless in government, all the same, repeatedly portray Burma as a divided country, often, over emphasising the ethnic differences, giving the impression to non-Burmese, and indeed many ethnics themselves, because they are influenced by what they read or hear, that this is where the route cause of conflict lay. With their next breath, they expect Burma to reach the same level of freedom they themselves are privileged with, without a fight, and place barriers between neighbours that otherwise share the same common struggle but are too cautious to ally themselves with others.

**Focusing the limelight on just one person**, more so a person regarded by the regime, as an 'outsider' is paramount to rubbing salt into a wound, inflicting unbearable agony and inciting fierce retaliatory action. As much as the regime is hated, many believing, that no level of pain is too much too inflict upon them; by poring yet more fuel onto the fire only inflames the situation, making the chances of compromise less likely.

**Too risk the ultimate sacrifice ones self, for a cause they may never witness as won, takes extreme courage, but it reveals a great love for their children and their future!**

**Unless the population en-bloc, are willing to die in their many thousands on the streets until the troops finally change sides or, are over powered by mass crowds, its better not to frustrate the regime repeatedly to the point of them inflicting further horrors upon them that otherwise go undefended. Instead; support a political party that will represent them across the table, and if called upon, will do the fighting and take the risks, on their behalf!**

**The policy** of celebritising an individual, encouraged by western media, has created more antagonistic responses than perhaps it would have. Had the worlds media included the individual as a leading member of a political group, instead of an icon too it, which in turn, belittles members of the NLD into being nothing more than bees serving a queen, then the people would have fell back from the belief that one person alone, can save the day, and would have restored confidence in themselves as *contributors* to the cause instead of simple followers lost in the wilderness, waiting for the tide too turn. The whole world knows how the regime responds to demonstrations, and the failed results they bring. Yes, they inform the world, but what precisely, is the world expected to do, and why have they sat back for so long, since 1962 to be precise?

**A little more cooperation** with equilibrium all around as the main stay, including within the NLD's own ranks, and the NCGUB to stop delivering its own totalitarian

conditions, would be most appropriate if the SPDC is to be brought to the table, or removed, if that is of course, the ultimate objective of these people?

**Fact is fact**, and no amount of waiting, generated by emotional hype or petty sanctions that are custom designed not to hinder foreign companies operating in Burma, will change the status quo. It is right of course, to call for the release of all political prisoners, and give Suu Kyi her freedom without restrictions, but let us not forget where we are and whom we are dealing with. We say again; “time is of no consequence to those outside safe and sound, they are privileged to indulge into their decadent lifestyles, whereas, time is everything when ruled by fear, with no where to run”!

**We have said many times**; had governments in the free world, **not** ignored other avenues that were apparent, and assisted in the building of a united front against the regime, the SPDC, would have been under a greater threat, offering a better chance of dividing the leadership together with the rank and file, forcing the regime to rethink its strategy. The west, whilst dividing the population of Burma, whether purposely or inadvertently, chose to finance and promote a single individual, seen by many in Burma today as a spent force, as well as; politically inept and without clout, giving the appearance more focused on what could be interpreted as deliberate sabotage, than an alliance.

**Politics**; nothing is what it seems, and often, that which appears in the form of assistance, is actually carefully orchestrated disruption. We see here a typical fault line in western democracy; when it comes to exercising policy, whether at home or abroad, it's invariably practised behind closed doors, operating under the same pretext as a dictatorship, as was the Iraq war, and we can all see where that has led us. In the case of Britain, hindering promotion of the PDP for example, and other pro-democracy parties, is a gross violation of democracy, and therefore, must hide ulterior motives behind its stance. What is the west afraid of, why does it not use its influence to gather all parties together for a round table debate? The people of Burma should ask themselves this question, and ask also, those of the NLD, and NCGUB!

**In Burma's case**, the excuse given by foreign governments; convenient for them, would appear to reveal, that no other viable political body is visible; therefore, the NLD receive all the favour, whilst the NCGUB, profit from it, the people of Burma however, still suffer the traumas of living under tyranny?

**Let us not forget**; that Burma's opposition to the regime could have become a force to be reckoned during 1994, whereas; the international diplomatic skills of the PDP leadership, created an opportunity to form a government in the liberated area of Burma, with 76 countries ready to recognised it with all diplomatic courtesies in place, but was **sabotaged** by Sein Win, of the NCGUB, because **he**, rejected the conditions, and the fact that he was not offered a position of substantial status. He placed himself above that of the people of Burma, and still craves power at any price. He also performed dirty tricks on the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) because he felt it had more authority than him, needless to say the DAB fell into decline as an influential body. Whether influenced by outside institutions or not, Sein Win must shoulder the responsibility of failing the people of Burma more so perhaps, than Suu Kyi?

**It became apparent** that some western governments listened more to those exiles whom were easily influenced by money and power. Those governments, working on behalf of their own interests only, were, and are still, fed with false and misguided information from the likes of Sein Win and his paid cohorts, however, being more concerned with their individual future foreign policy, chose to travel a crooked path hacked out by Sein Win & Co., though possibly influenced by them, and sadly, as can be witnessed today, failed the people of Burma, miserably.

**Fortunately, the Parliamentary Democracy Party (PDP Burma)** led by its charismatic chairman, Bo Aung Din, read the signs long ago, had he ignored them, and not pulled the PDP from the web of political despair, suffered by others, it too, would have been drawn down into the quicksand. However; because of the PDP's foresight, it has given Burma the opportunity to save itself from itself by guiding them in the right direction where the likes of Sein Win and others dare not follow through fear of being exposed for what they really are. The people of Burma rightly deserve what has been denied them since 1962, whereupon, the PDP are the only organised party capable of confronting the SPDC on its own playing field, placing them in the optimum position to return it to them.

**All concerned** talk only of the past, present, and what they want, none speak or debate on how too achieve anything, so are going no where, what is certain; the past and present is open for all to see, therefore easy to talk about and criticise, even for those who lived no part of it. It takes know-how, vision, dedication, loyalty, and courage to plan ahead instead of after the fact. History has revealed that no one person displayed the qualities to advance forward, only to drop anchor into the mud!

**History did not reveal** however, the secret work being undertaken by the PDP, whereupon, the present reveals it as a party with immense political vigour that is growing stronger every day, as it its momentum, something not seen in the pro-democracy arena for many years

**The Parliamentary Democracy Party (PDP Burma)** know precisely where they are going, and how too get there, has proved what it can do, and has finally exposed those whom prevented it from happening.

The gloves must now come off if Burma is going too be brought back into the fold of democracy. It is not difficult to imagine what the PDP could achieve if certain barriers were removed out of harms way, and equal funding was to be offered?

It is not only colonial/former colonial powers, and today's foreign policy of other governments that divide and rule, allowing particular power bases to hold their fort, the NCGUB, under Sein Win, also apply the same tactics, to the disadvantage of the population of Burma!

In contrast to the above, the PDP, have been stalwart in their drive to unite all the people of Burma, where others have driven wedges between them because they want absolute power. Political risk as well as personal has been a daily burden to bear for Bo Aung Din and his team, and not only from the direction of the regime, however, this is accepted as part and parcel of the job, whereas; others, lacking in both the courage and political know-how, choose safety and wealth before their country or its people!

**Bo Aung Din;** current Chairman of the PDP, has strived to create a political platform where all can be represented, and not simply dictated too by one group. If the goal

is democracy, then the tactics of the opposition should also apply the same principles. No other group, including the NLD, and most certainly the NCGUB, have focused on the whole picture because they see it as a threat to their own power base, the PDP however, are not concerned who governs Burma, provided it's a democracy. They are not striving to seek power, only to restore democracy, so that the people can choose who governs them!

**The SPDC** are buying in more weaponry, not the sophisticated systems designed to take on advanced nations that might invade, but less sophisticated systems to engage any opposition within Burma itself. The regime leaders, can sense an air of judgement day from within, fast approaching, and believe that more weapons will keep it at bay, not so!

**The regime, on paper,** already, has the capability to inflict destruction on the ground without using ground troops, because it cannot rely on those troops to carry out mass attacks against their own people, whereupon, it will not consider collateral damage as a hindrance to its objective. Provided, the regimes logistical capabilities are on par, and its stock piles are high, maintenance of its arsenal must be second to none as time would not permit repair or replacement. Hitler; had his SS personal body guard surrounding his bunker in Berlin, because he no longer trusted the rank and file members of the army that were surrendering in their 100's of thousands, even so, failed to save him. Therefore; moral among those SPDC troops that form a ring around the SPDC leadership, must be high, and constantly nurtured, but is it? Wealth alone is not enough to sustain conflict for a long period of time, more so in a terrain where it's difficult to see an enemy until it's on your doorstep.

Determined courage sustained from the thought of freedom will drive a person further than that of a person serving a master who ignores their own needs. The SPDC may have a large army, and an air force, and remnants of a navy, whereas; too afford and sustain a serious conflict against their own people, without a just cause, and falling moral, is something we very much doubt is possible. It would not take much of a push in the right direction, which has not been targeted up until now, to disrupt what the SPDC believes is beyond vulnerability, but perhaps; they are aware of their own vulnerability?

It's a good guess, that the leadership are fully aware of this and have evacuation plans in place, with funds already in accessible banks for when the day of reckoning arrives.

**The top 4 or 5, SPDC leadership** when the day arrives, provided they survived, will desert the troops that kept them in power, the second line of leadership may try to take over, but will fail, or, they too, will desert their posts in fear of their lives as more and more of the military rank and file move against them.

**The PDP,** as part of its planning procedure, has been working intensely for years, preparing for such an eventuality.

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